

this arena and they deserve to know exactly what our trade bureaucrats and their corporate allies have in store.

Mr. Speaker, say no to WTO accession for the communist government and the People's Republic of China.

STEENS MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the great fortune of visiting with the ranchers and individual citizens who live on and around Steens Mountain in Harney County.

I traveled many miles over a majestic loop road that takes in the magnificent views of the vistas overlooking the Kiger Gorge and the Alvord Desert and the Little Blitzen Gorge. I also flew over these breathtaking areas and actually got on a horse and rode to the ridgetops of the Roaring Springs Ranch to look at the Steens Mountains.

Many individuals who live on and around the mountain accompanied me as we looked at the management and multiple uses occurring on Steens Mountain. These farmers, ranchers, guides and others are the ones whose livelihoods would be significantly affected by actions of those who are thousands of miles away, those who perhaps have never seen the Steens or set foot on its soil.

Let me tell my colleagues like Steve Hammond, who is the latest generation in his family to ranch and raise his family on the Steens or Fred Otley, who works early mornings and late nights on his family's ranch taking care of the cattle while handling the politics of the mountain, all the while seeking new and improved range management techniques or Dan Nichols, a rancher and county commissioner who is involved in the tourist industry through his family's bed and breakfast and an excellent one I must say, while still trying to manage the affairs of the county; Stacey Davies, a young ranch manager who with his wife Elaine is raising their 6 boys on one of the largest ranches in Oregon and who is incorporating some research and science and active management principles that are an important part of the ecology of the mountain; John and Cindy Witzel, a young couple who know the mountain as well as part of their packing and guiding business.

These are but a few of the many people with whom I spoke and met as I traveled around Steens Mountain this weekend. All of them know the mountain intimately, and each has a unique story to tell.

The underlying reason for my visit to the Steens is that the Secretary of the Interior threatens to unilaterally put down some designation before he leaves

office if the Congress does not do so before that time.

Well, after visiting the mountain, I found myself asking from what or from whom are we trying to protect the Steens? Do we truly need a new designation? What will the effects of a designation be? Will the Steens be better off if they are declared a national monument that will thereby draw thousands if not tens of thousands of tourists to this very pristine and remote area of southeastern Oregon? How many more roads and restrooms and paving and guardrails and everything else would we need for the mountain to accommodate such an influx of tourists?

I wonder if the visitor to Yosemite National Park would find it a better experience today than it was prior to the influx of probably hundreds of thousands of tourists.

Steens Mountain is a patchwork of private and Federal lands. The management of the mountain depends on cooperative partnerships between those private landowners and the Federal land managers. The success of this partnership lies in the ability of the private landowners to work with their Federal neighbors and for their Federal neighbors to be good neighbors.

There are many excellent management techniques being practiced on the mountain today from proscribed burns to stream restoration work and monitoring. The health of the mountain is in an upward trend with private land owners playing an active and an important role in promoting sound stewardship on the mountain.

Before someone blindly places a Federal designation on the Steens Mountain for the sake of a designation, we need to carefully ask does the mountain need additional protections. From what I saw, I am not convinced it does.

However, if it is determined that greater protections are warranted, let us take the time to carefully consider the needs of both the mountain and those whose livelihoods depend on it for ranching, for recreation, and for tourism. Let us not spoil Steens Mountain.

The successful management of the Steens, with or without some form of national designation, depends upon the close cooperation of the private landowners and those in the community who live on and around the mountain. Now is not the time for the Federal Government to shove some designation down their throats.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VIRGINIA F. SAUNDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in the ranks of federal workers are many exceptional people. I want to draw the House's attention to the lat-

est achievement, and lifetime of service, of one federal employee who lives in my congressional district: Ms. Virginia F. Saunders, of Beltsville, Maryland.

Ms. Saunders, a dedicated Government Printing Office employee for over fifty years, was recently presented the James Bennett Childs Award by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table. This prestigious honor, reserved for persons making extraordinary contributions in the field of government documents librarianship, was awarded to Ms. Saunders in June at the ALA's annual convention in New Orleans. She received the Childs Award in recognition of her work in the compilation and publication of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, which since 1817 has collected all numbered Senate and House documents into an authoritative, permanent record of the U.S. Congress.

Ms. Saunders has served with distinction at the GPO since 1946, when Harry Truman was President. For the last 30 years, she has been the individual primarily responsible for the Serial Set, a publication of incalculable value to library collections, historians, researchers, and students everywhere.

In the words of historian Dee Brown, the U.S. Congressional Serial Set "contains almost everything about the American experience . . . our wars, our peacetime works, our explorations and inventions . . . If we lost everything in print, except our documents, we would still have a splendid record and a memory of our past experience." As the GPO's 1994 Report of the Serial Set Study Group pointed out, researchers and librarians agree that the Serial Set is "without peer in representative democracies throughout the western world as a documentary compendium."

Throughout her career, Virginia Saunders has worked tirelessly to improve the Serial Set, and has generously shared her knowledge with document librarians across the country. In 1998, she delivered an overview of the Serial Set's history at the 7th Annual Federal Depository Library Conference. In addition, she has served as a panelist at the ALA's annual conference.

This latest award is not Saunders' first recognition for her exemplary service. In 1989, her timely, common-sense suggestion that duplicative House and Senate reports stemming from the Iran-Contra investigation be assigned serial numbers as required, but not bound, saved the government more than \$600,000, and earned her commendations from the Public Printer and President George Bush.

Her nomination for the Childs Award summarized her work with the Serial Set as follows: "Ms. Saunders has not only meticulously maintained a set of records of vital importance to the Nation, but has worked with information professionals and Government officials to improve it, to lower costs, and to enhance its accessibility to librarians, researchers, and the public."

Mr. Speaker, let's join in offering our heartfelt congratulations to Virginia Saunders for her latest achievement, and our sincere thanks for her lifetime of service and a job well done.